

The Bridge Builders in Black History

The month of February has special meaning for the African - American community in the United States. It has been observed annually as Black History Month. During this month, the contributions of African - Americans to the nation and the world are acknowledged and celebrated. Our African - American ancestors were "bridge builders", a phrase used by Alma Webb Hanks* in her writings:

"Building bridges is what we are all about... It is what our ancestors did, that have bought us ever so close to our potential. Bridges made out of sweat, blood, determination, dreams, hopes, tears, and most of all prayers. Bridges not made by machines, but by the dreams of the builder... Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was not only a bridge builder, but also 'Our Bridge over Trouble Waters'. He was builder of the Civil Rights Bridge - Mrs. Rosa Parks drafted the blueprints for this bridge when she refused to give up her seat to a white man on a City Bus in Montgomery, Alabama and was arrested...Dr. King called her 'the great fuse that led the modern stride toward freedom'."

African - American History is in the making every day. This month we remember and celebrate past and present-day achievements of those who have been and presently are "Bridge Builders". Their contributions to the good of society include areas in the healthcare field, government, the arts, research and technology, literature, business and the entertainment industry. We salute the following:

Frederick Douglass was a writer and public speaker. He made a profound contribution to civil rights, women's rights and political areas of his time. He was perhaps the foremost voice in the abolitionist movement in the 19th century, which earned him the title "spokesman for his race". Douglass Harrison apartments are named after him.

Maya Angelou, gifted and inspirational author and speaker, has written 5 volumes of autobiography and her poetry has been gathered together in The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou. She is a woman of dignity and courage and has touched the hearts of millions of women and men.

Archie Callahan, a Douglass Harrison resident, was the first African American soldier to die in World War II. He sacrificed his life so that all Americans might enjoy peace. A monument in the center of Douglass Harrison Park pays him tribute.

Mary Eliza Mahoney was the first black graduate nurse in the United States. She entered the New England Hospital for Women and Children in 1878 at the age of 33 and received her diploma August 1, 1879. Thousands have followed her lead into the medical profession.

Richard Berry Harrison, an actor, gained national prominence on the basis of one role - "DeLaud" in *Green Pastures*. His work won him the 1930 Spingarn Medal. Douglass Harrison Apartments are named after him.

Wilma Rudolph, the great Olympian athlete, was the first American to win three gold medals in track in a single Olympiad in 1956. Many young athletes have been inspired by her.

Michael Jordan, basketball player of all time, sets high standards for himself on and off the basketball court. He is a wonderful role model for youth and adults as well...and is admired by all.

Mae C. Jemison, born in 1956, studied science and engineering. In the 1980's she became the first black woman astronaut... a dream in many a heart.

Paul Robeson, was a actor, singer, playwright, author. He was a man of great character and achievement in the Arts. What was most important to him was who he was rather than what he did - a lesson for all of us.

Edith Sampson, was the first woman to receive a law degree from Loyola University. In 1962 she became the first black woman in American History to be elected judge. Her legacy lives on.

Carter G. Woodson, was an American Historian who opened the long-neglected field of black studies to scholars and made them known in the schools and colleges of black people. We can credit Carter Woodson for the establishment of Black History Month. What a gift he gave to all people.

These are some of the men and women who have been "Bridge Builders"...have made a difference in our nation and world. There are many more... Think about how YOU can be a "Bridge Builder"... at school...at work...in the neighborhood...in the city... you can make a difference in your life and in the lives of others...Believe it - and let us celebrate this beautiful heritage!

* **Alma Webb Hanks** is a long time NCC resident, past President of NCC Senior Advisory Council, a writer and poet and the WNJR SENIOR for the month of February. We are privileged to have her writings available to us.

MANAGEMENT NOTES

From The Management Desk

In an effort for our collection status to be more effective the Management Office of Douglass Harrison has implemented the following: Beginning March 1, 1999 Management will be using door tags to contact residents who are delinquent with rents. Also we will be posting a list of names on the bulletin board at the office. To avoid any further embarrassments we advise that those concerned take care of the situation before it's too late. If you have any questions, please contact myself at the office.

Juan Ortiz

Asst. Property Manager

Tenant Work Program

Effective February 1, 1999 Management Office will implement the Tenant Work Program.

Requirements to Apply: resident must have experience in one of the following maintenance fields Plumbing, Carpentry or Painting. Hours worked will be credit to resident's monthly rent. Residents must have a current balance and also must be paid up to date. All residents interested in applying please see Mr. Stanley Elliott at Douglass Harrison Maintenance Department.

R. Nazario

Property Manager

We Need Your Help

Our Rental Department is still offering \$50.00 vouchers to residents who refer any new move - in. For further information, see Ms. Della Williams, Rental Department at D/H.

Della Williams

Rental Department

Bridge of Dreams

If I were to build a bridge, what kind of a bridge would it be?

The lights on it would light the way, for all cross - overs to see.

These lights would give off enough heat to warm the coldest heart,

So that once you put one foot on it, you would want to do your part.

The Dove of Peace would fly constantly over head,

As a reminder, that enough blood has already been shed.

It's road would be the footprints of all past achievers,

And those who dared to cross would truly be believers.

Believing in themselves and that dreams do come true

And that there is enough room in the world for me and you.

We must keep on dreaming, for once we stop we are lost.

My bridge is ready for start of construction, for the dreamers who died have paid the cost.

Alma Webb Hanks

Douglass-Harrison NEWS HIGHLIGHTS is published monthly for the Douglas-Harrison Community of New Community Corporation.

Social Services: Sr. Kathy McGonigle, Sr. Lucinda Borders, Luisa Diaz

Management: Raymond Brown, Juan Ortiz, Ruperta Nazario, Stanley Elliott.

SOCIAL SERVICE CORNER

59 Somerset A-1 623-6205/6233

February Thrift Sale

Come one, come all...shop to your heart's content at Social Service's Boutique...not 1 day, but 2 days...February 8 and 9. Clothes - children & adults (new and used); New Toys and Games...and more..Great Bargains!

Monday, February 8th 1:00 - 4:30pm

and

Tuesday, February 9th 9:30am - 12noon

Brown Bag Members

Brown Bag Payment is the first week of February (Monday - Friday, February 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) You can pickup your Brown Bag on Monday, February 22 at 3:30pm

Black History Month Supper

On Tuesday, February 16, you are invited to come to a special supper in honor of Black History Month. We ask that you bring with you one of your favorite Soul Foods to share with others. Please let us know by Thursday, February 11, what you will be bringing. Our Resident Meeting will follow supper.

Donut Days

D-H residents may pick up a FREE bag of donuts on Monday, February 1 and Tuesday, February 16 at 3:30pm.

Valentine Peace Doll Raffle

We are raffling off a hand-made peace doll. It is something that any age would enjoy. Raffle tickets are 25 Cents each. Come to our office and get your ticket(s). The winning number will be drawn Friday, February 12 at 3:30pm.

Last Call for Cooling Program

Do you need a fan or air conditioner in the summer months because of health problems? If so, you may qualify for the Cooling Program. For more information, please contact our office BEFORE February 15, 1999.

Resident

Management/Social Service Meeting

Our monthly Resident Meeting is Tuesday, February 16 at 6:00pm in the Social Service Office. It is important that residents attend these meetings. Plan to come ..bring a neighbor...door prizes!

Special Announcement to All Residents!

Due to the recent violent activity in the neighborhood, the outside door of the Social Service Office (59 Somerset St.) will be locked. Please buzz A - 1 and wait for someone to let you in. The Office is open Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Thank you!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Brown Bag Payment 3:30pm Donuts at DH	2 Brown Bag Payment	3 Brown Bag Payment	4 Brown Bag Payment	5 Brown Bag Payment LAST DAY	6
7	8 1:00pm - 4:30pm Thrift Sale	9 9:30pm - 12:00pm Thrift Sale	10 5:00pm Resident Planning Mtg.	11	12 Peace Doll Raffle 3:30pm Lincoln's Birthday	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day NCC Offices Closed	16 Newport Mall Trip; 3:30pm Donuts at DH 4:30pm Black History Month Supper 6:00pm Resident, Mtg., Social Svc.	17 Ash Wednesday	18 3:30pm Social Service Mtg. at 220 Bruce St.	19	20
21	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24 2pm Human Services Staff Mtg.	25	26	27 5pm Passport to African Heritage at St. Joseph's Plaza
28						



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